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## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCT REGIONALIZATION

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### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application serial number 09/295,080 filed April 20, 1999, <sup>now U.S. Patent # 6,312,106</sup> entitled "Method And Apparatus For Transferring Information Between A Replaceable Consumable And A Printing Device," assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

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The present invention relates to methods of regionalizing a product for specific markets for the purposes of language localization, insuring compliance with local laws and standards, or theft prevention, and apparatus for accomplishing the methods.

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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A variety of situations exist in which it is desirable to "regionalize" a product, distinguishing that product from otherwise identical products elsewhere. Regionalization can allow a product to automatically configure related software, such as drivers and user manuals, to be displayed in a local language. Regionalization can help discourage the use of consumable items related to the product that are not intended for use in that region (due to non-compliance with local standards, or local intellectual property rights issues). "Regionalization" may also be used on a local